

**ABSTRACT****COMMUNICATION METHOD AND SYSTEM**

5           The present invention relates to a communication method and system, and more particularly, to a wireless communication system in which free public Internet access is provided to wireless communication devices via an appropriate wireless communication protocol such as, for example, 802.11b or Bluetooth. A clearing-house server is arranged to manage a pool of money and to distribute that money according to a distribution policy. The  
10       distribution policy is intended to compensate owners of various parts of the communication system infrastructure for providing free Internet access. For example, an ISP owner may be compensated for allowing the wireless base station to make its spare bandwidth available for use by members of the public to access the Internet, while concurrently maintaining sufficient bandwidth for its conventional users. Advantageously, the ISP owner is not adversely  
15       affected, from a financial perspective, by the wireless base station owner making their spare bandwidth available for use by the public.

(figure 1)